

February 8, 2011

**Statement  
Of  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
On  
HB 5311 An Act Imposing A Moratorium On Changes To Current Procedural Terminology  
Codes**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance Committee, my name is Christine Cappiello and I am the Director of Government Relations for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut. I am on testifying on HB 5311 An Act Imposing A Moratorium On Changes To Current Procedural Terminology Codes.

We are opposed to this legislation in great part because we do not understand the intent of the legislation because insurers do not change procedural terminology codes and in fact the American Medical Association does. Allow me to explain, Current Procedural Terminology Codes (commonly called CPT codes) and they are numbers assigned to every task and service a provider may perform on a patient including medical, surgical and diagnostic services. They are then used by insurers to determine the amount of reimbursement that a practitioner will receive by an insurer. CPT codes are developed, maintained and copyrighted by the American Medical Association and as health care changes, new codes are developed for new services, current codes may be revised, and old, unused codes are discarded. Thousands of codes are in use, and they are updated annually. Development and maintenance of these codes is overseen by editorial boards at the AMA. We would also like to offer that if there is a prohibition on changes to the CPT codes for three years, as this legislation suggests, that will in essence put the provider community in an awkward and difficult position as the practice of healthcare develops through new procedures, etc. then there will no mechanism for those providers to bill for those services and paid for by not only private insurers but also Medicare and Medicaid.

We hope that the Committee takes into consideration these unintended consequences on not only the insurers but more importantly the members and their providers as you deliberate this legislation. Thank you for your time and attention and we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.